

Certification Corner

Council Selects Testing Company

by George P. Kousaleos
National Certification Council Chair



The Psychological Corporation, a leading testing company, has been selected by the National Certification Council to coordinate the development and administration of the first National Certification Examination.

The Psychological Corporation, a subsidiary of Harcourt, Brace, and Jovanovich, has developed psychological, educational, and credentialing examinations for over 70 years. Their expertise with professions similar to massage therapy, and their use of innovative techniques, supports the Certification Council's commitment to produce the highest quality examination that is user-friendly and fulfills the requirements of the National Commission of Certifying Agencies.

A "Proposed Calendar of Key Events" has been organized by Chuck Friedman, Ph.D, Division Director of the Psychological Corporation. While the Certification Council will determine exact dates at its next meeting, here are important events for the remainder of this year and into 1992:

1991

August: Item Writing Workshop—Massage Therapy and Bodywork experts will write test questions that pertain to the subject areas identified in the Job Analysis Survey.

September: Council Meeting and Item Review—The National Certification Council will meet to finalize plans for eligibility requirements, by-laws, National Board structure, recertification, and a complete review of the item bank.

November: Field Test—Three regional field tests which will serve as pilot examinations, will evaluate the test questions, the test format, and the length of testing time.

December: National Distribution of Candidate Handbooks.

1992

February: Content Review—The National Certification Council will review and approve the final test form.

March: Application deadline for first test.

April: First test administration—The first certification examination will be administered nationally at 40 sites.

September: Application deadline for October test.

October: Second test administration.

Recommended Reading

For those of you who want to understand more about the issues concerning National Certification, please read the two articles entitled, "National Certification Perspectives I & II," in the *Massage Therapy Journal* (Winter '91 and Spring '91). These articles discuss issues about the governing body, administrative independence, the voluntary nature of certification, exam content determination, possible effects on training programs, written vs. practical exams, and the initiation and funding of the program by AMTA.

Job Analysis Report Ready

Just a quick reminder—the final Job Analysis Report, *A National Study of the Profession of Massage Therapy/Bodywork*, can be purchased through:

AMTA Office
Attn: Job Analysis Report
1130 W. North Shore Avenue
Chicago, IL 60626
(312) 761-2682

The full report, available for \$25, contains the survey methodology, statistical results including demographic information and important ratings for professional responsibility and knowledge, and the appendices. The appendices include the survey instrument, information about the original Steering Committee, and more detailed statistics. The short report, available for \$10, contains the first 34 pages of the final report without the appendices.

Now Speaking at Your Conference

Please look for me and other members of the National Certification Council at upcoming AMTA State and Regional Conferences, and at the National Convention in Palm Springs, CA. Wherever possible, we will hold forums and question and answer sessions. We always welcome your questions and comments.

For further information, contact:

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